



City of Milwaukee

Meeting Minutes

CONVENIENT LENDING TASK FORCE

City Hall
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

ALD. JOE DAVIS, Chair

Ald. Terry Witkowski, Vice-Chair, Chris Callen, Kathryn Crumpton, Dorothy Dean, Dimitri Jordan, Anna Ruzinski, Bethany Sanchez, Jim Walrath, Bobbie Webber Jr.

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Friday, February 3, 2006

9:00 AM

Room 301B, City Hall

Meeting Convened: 9:10 A.M.

Members Present: Ald. Davis, Deputy Inspector Rusinski, Ms. Dean, Mr. Callen, Mr. Walrath, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Crumpton.

Members Excused: Ald. Witkowski, Mr. Webber Jr.

Mr. Jeff Osterman, Legislative Reference Bureau was also present as research staff for the task force.

1) Approval of the minutes of the December 2, 2005 meeting,

Motion by Ms. Dean to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2005 meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Walrath.

2) Review of Draft Recommendations

Mr. Osterman provided a draft copy of the table of contents to members for review. He advised members that page 5 should be amended to read Appendix (B), rather than Appendix (A) in the first paragraph.

In addition, Mr. Osterman advised members that he is still waiting for documentation for the following areas:

Neighborhood impact issues - Ms. Dean

Regulations of convenient businesses - Mr. Walrath

Recommendations of the task force, pending completion of research.

Ms. Sanchez informed members that she is still researching the fiscal impact on the city, which will be included in the neighborhood impact issues. She will also provide additional research on the customer base, and why consumers use convenient lending establishments rather than mainstream lenders. She advised members that she would also include alternatives to using convenient lending establishments.

Ald. Davis suggested that the final report be condensed by referencing relative case studies.

In addition, Ald. Davis requested, Mr. Franitza and Mr. Osterman work together to review ordinances that have been amended, as well as any new ordinances that have affected zoning.

Mr. Osterman recommend that the sections being researched by Mr. Walrath be listed in the final report as attachments in the appendices:

- City ordinances*
- State regulations*
- Regulations in other cities*
- City Attorney Opinions*

Mr. Osterman also suggested that summarizing these areas would help to condense revelant information.

In addition, Mr. Osterman referenced new State Legislation, Assembly Bill 914, introduced January 17th, which sets a limit of 2% per month on the interest rate imposed by convenient lending establishments.

Ald. Davis requested that reference to 2005 Assembly Bill 914 be included in the task force's final recommendations, including a through analysis. He also requested that Mr. Osterman also include data indicating median income based upon 2000 census data relative to ethnicity in Aldermanic Districts.

Deputy Inspector Ruzinski referred to the Public Safety section of the task force's recommendations. She advised members that research does not provide supporting evidence to indicate that convenient lending establishments cause crime to increase in neighborhoods; but that research does imply that convenient lending establishments tend to locate in high crime areas where there are social and economic conditions among other factors.

Deputy Inspector Ruzinski advised members that she will work with Mr. Osterman to develop a map of the city with 2005 crime statistics plotted on the map with a plastic overlay of convenient lending establishments.

Mr. Osterman advised members that he would provide City Attorney Opinions.

Ald. Davis advised members that the target deadline date for completion of the task force's final recommendations will be between mid March and early April.

Ms. Dean advised members of an opinion the state attorney general is currently working on relative to what states can do and what municipilaties can't do. She suggested that this this information be included the final report, if complete prior to that time.

Ald. Davis requested that members start to submit final recommendations to city clerk staff to be included in a spread sheet.

In addition, Mr. Callen and Ms. Dean will research the following:

Whether there is a financial relationship between conventional lending institutions and convenient lending establishments.

Both Ald. Davis and Ms. Sanchez will speak with Congresswoman Moore relative to federal regulations.

3) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4) Next meeting date and time

The next meeting is scheduled March 3, 2006, 9:00 A.M, Room 301-B.

Meeting Adjourned:10:20 A.M.

*Diana Morgan
Staff Assistant*

All documents researched by the Convenient Lending Task Force may be reviewed by going to www.milwaukee.gov, under Common Council click on Council Files and enter file number 050489.